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AVERAGE AND PROBABILITY.

183. Proposed by J. EDWARD SANDERS, Reinersville, Ohio.

A point within a given triangle is joined to each of the corners. What is the average of the sum of the lengths of these three lines?

184. Proposed by HENRY HEATON, Atlantic, Iowa.

Through every point of the sides of a given square, straight lines are drawn across the square in every possible direction. What is their average length?

BOOKS AND PERIODICALS.

A Short Course in Differential Equations. By Donald Francis Campbell, Ph. D., Professor of Mathematics, Armour Institute of Technology. 8vo. Cloth, vii+96 pages. New York: The Macmillan Co.

The treatment of the subject of Differential Equations in this little book is sufficiently comprehensive to give the student of Engineering a working knowledge of the subject and to enable him to handle intelligently nearly all differential equations which he is likely to encounter. At the end of each chapter is a list of well chosen problems, many of them drawn from practical affairs in Electrical and Mechanical Engineering. The book is one that will meet the wants of that class of students who have not the time nor the desire to master the more comprehensive treatises of Johnson, Boole, Forsythe, etc. B.F.F.

An Introduction to Astronomy. By Forest Ray Moulton, Ph. D., Assistant Professor of Mathematics in The University of Chicago; and Author of *An Introduction to Celestial Mechanics*. 8vo. Half Leather, xviii+557 pages. New York: The Macmillan Co.

In this volume, the author aims to give an introductory account of the present state of the Science of Astronomy, to present the subject in such a way that it shall be easily comprehended by students who have only a knowledge of elementary algebra and geometry and who have no extensive scientific training, and to give them a well balanced conception of the Astronomy of the present day. The author treats the subject with the same enthusiasm that characterizes his teaching, and he has told the story of Astronomy in a most interesting and fascinating way. One reads with profound interest the chapter on Evolution of the Solar System, in which is given the various inconsistencies of the Laplacian, or Nebular, Hypothesis, and in which the author advances what he calls the "Spiral Nebular Hypothesis," a theory which was first advanced by Professor Chamberlain and the author. This interesting theory explains many facts that the Laplacian Theory does not explain. The theory is supported by many facts and is being recognized by many of the leading astronomers. This book in the hands of the student with a competent instructor to lead him can not fail to arouse great interest in that most wonderful of all sciences, astronomy.

B. F. F.